

# ROCHE INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

NUTLEY, NEW JERSEY 07110

December 4, 1974

Dr. D. Nathans  
Dept. of Microbiology  
Johns Hopkins University  
School of Medicine  
725 N. Wolfe Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21205

Dear Dan:

You may remember that one of the goals of the Asilomar Conference is to come up with a position paper on the preparation and use of recombinant DNA molecules. I am writing to request a one- or two-page summary of your opinion concerning the question, "Should the existing moratorium be extended, modified, or eliminated?" Your reasons, suggestions, etc. will be very helpful to the organizing committee. This is especially important for our panel where there appears to be a diversity of opinions on the matter. I am also enclosing for your information copies of the NIH standards for use of oncogenic viruses in NCI laboratories and general guidelines for SVCP contractors. Please try to send your summaries before January 15.

Thank you and best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Aaron J. Shatkin  
Dept. of Cell Biology

AJS:ki

Enclosures

*Hello Dan —*

*Sorry about the above. More interesting is our results with the fragments that you sent. Methyl-<sup>3</sup>H-labeled cytoplasmic and nuclear <sup>RNA</sup> hybridized to each of the three fragments, and the RNase-resistant ~~cpm~~ percentages were similar (~70%-85% in each case).  
Regards  
C. Aaron*